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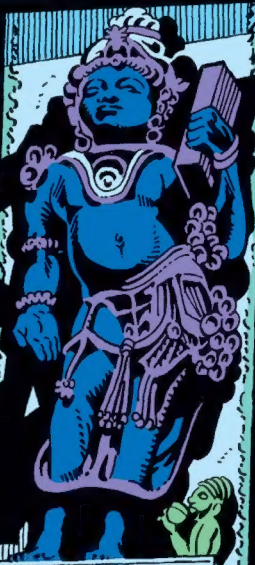
THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNGFU



**FIGHT
WITHOUT
REASON!**

*Featuring THE
RETURN OF CAT!*



GENE DAY

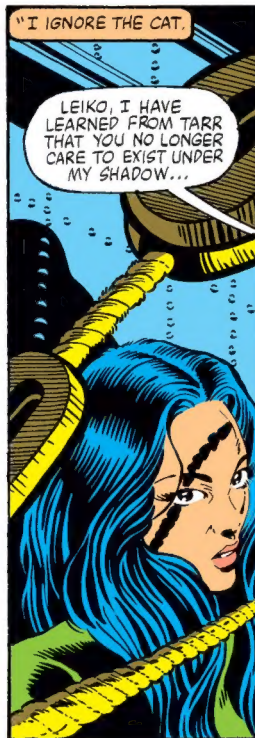
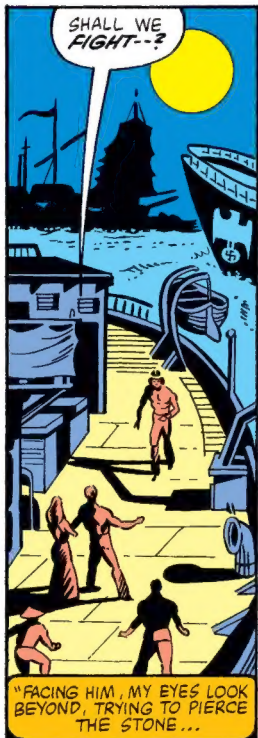
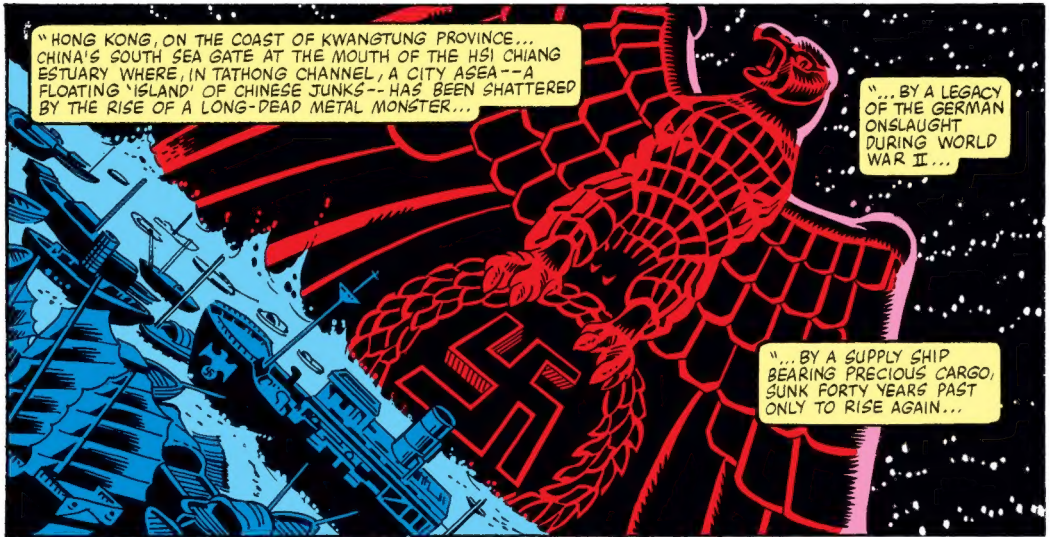


"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**®

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER





YOU KNOW HIM, LEIKO?
YOU *KNOW* THE
BRITISHER--?

YES,
SHEN KUEI, BUT
JUST AS YOU HAVE
LEFT YOUR LOVER
JULIETTE, SO TOO
HAVE I FORSAKEN
SHANG-CHI.



AND JUST AS YOU
HAVE CHOSEN
ME TO TAKE
JULIETTE'S
PLACE, SO TOO
HAVE I NOW
CHOSEN YOU.

"SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD
SPY, WITH A TALENT FOR ARTFUL
DECEIT.

THEN THE
SECRET OF
THE GERMAN
SHIP IS NOT
THE *ONLY*
REASON
FOR THIS
FIGHT...



LEIKO, I AM HERE NOW.
THERE IS NO FURTHER
REASON FOR YOU TO
PURSUE YOUR MISSION
UNDER THIS RUSE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT
HE'S TALKING ABOUT,
SHEN KUEI. IT IS A LIE--
A DECEIT TO GAIN THE
SHIP'S SECRET!



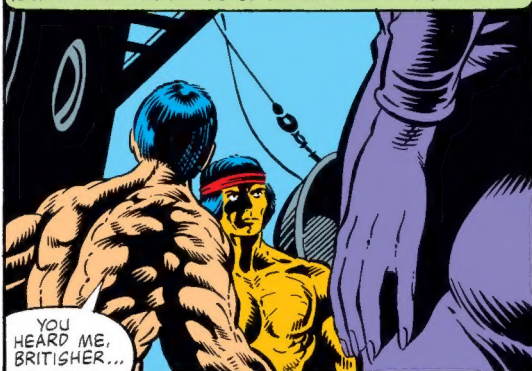
"INDEED -- ANOTHER COMPLEX
GAME OF DECEIT AND DEATH..."

"BUT WHY DOES SHE
PLAY IT SO WELL? WHY
DOES SHE PERSIST IN
PLAYING IT AT ALL--?"



YOU HEARD HER,
BRITISHER. NOW LET
US AGAIN SEE AND
HEAR AND FEEL THE
EXPERIENCE OF
FLESH STRIKING
FLESH!

"I AM ASSURED OF OUR LOVE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT SHE
MERELY *PRETENDS* FEALTY TO HIM FOR THE SAKE OF HER
MISSION -- TO OBTAIN THE SECRET OF THE GERMAN SHIP
RAISED FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE CHANNEL BY HIS MEN..."



YOU
HEARD ME,
BRITISHER...



SHWAKT

DEFEND
YOURSELF!

"BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE INEVITABLE, OF THE COMING FIGHT WHICH CANNOT BE STOPPED, PERHAPS I SHOULD CAST ALL SUCH ASSURANCES ASIDE... AND FOCUS SOLELY ON THE DECEIT OF MY MIND'S EYE..."

VERY WELL, SHEN KUEI...

...WE *SHALL* FIGHT!



"I WAS WRONG TO TRUST IN SELF-DECEIT!"

IT SEEMS, BRITISHER, THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED *LITTLE* SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER.



INDEED, COULD IT BE THAT YOU HAVE ACTUALLY *FORGOTTEN* SOME OF YOUR FORMER SKILL?



OR HAVE YOU MERELY GROWN OLD, AND LOST IT TO CARELESSNESS--?

"RAGE HAS NEVER FOUND ITS PLACE IN A TRUE FIGHT. AND HE TOUCHES A NERVE-- I HAVE LOST SOME OF MY FORMER ART... YET, TOO, I HAVE BEGUN TO REGAIN IT.

COME, BRITISHER-- TAKE ME!

"BUT PERHAPS I HAVE NOT REGAINED ENOUGH; PERHAPS I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE EXTENT OF WHAT I ONCE POSSESSED...



"... AND, IN REGAINING A SMALL PORTION OF IT, HAVE DECEIVED MYSELF INTO ALMOST FEELING WHOLE AGAIN.

"THERE IS NO ANSWER, NO FEELING, IN LEIKO'S EYES.



"ALONE, THEN.

KRUK

"I MUST REALIZE THAT SEEKING REFUGE IN RAGE IS A WEAKNESS...



"... A CERTAIN PATH TO THE LOSS OF WHAT-EVER I HAVE REGAINED.

SHREPP



"AND SO I MUST FIGHT CALMLY, WITH CONTROL AND COOL RECEPTIVITY...

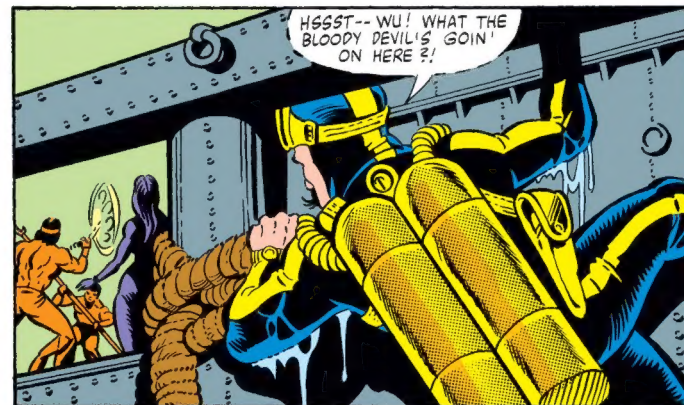
WUNK

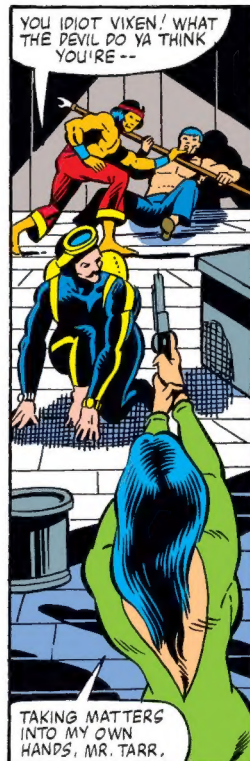


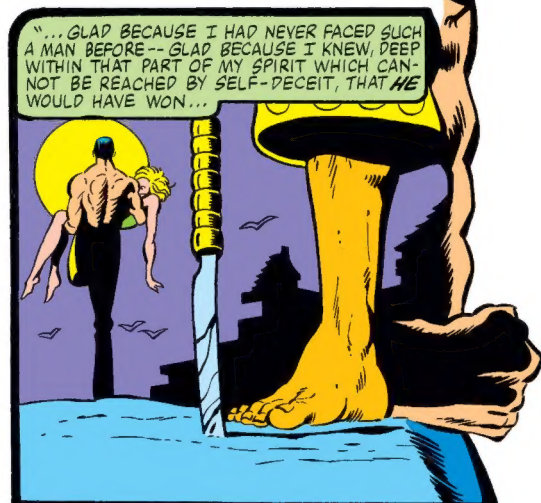
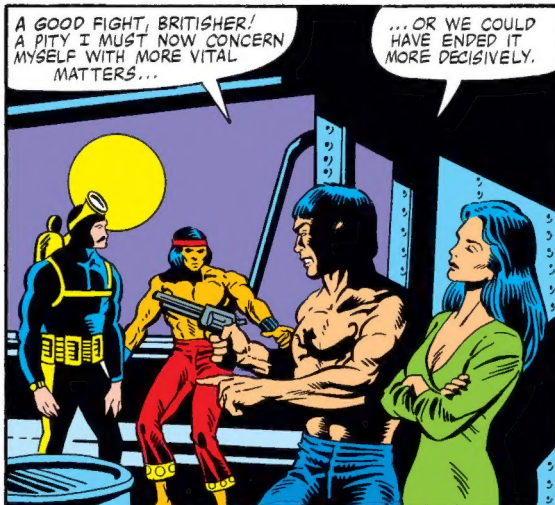
"... EVEN AS WE USE THE TOOLS OF OUR VIOLENT TRADE-- TOOLS OF WORK, PERVERTED IN PURPOSE, AS WEAPONS.

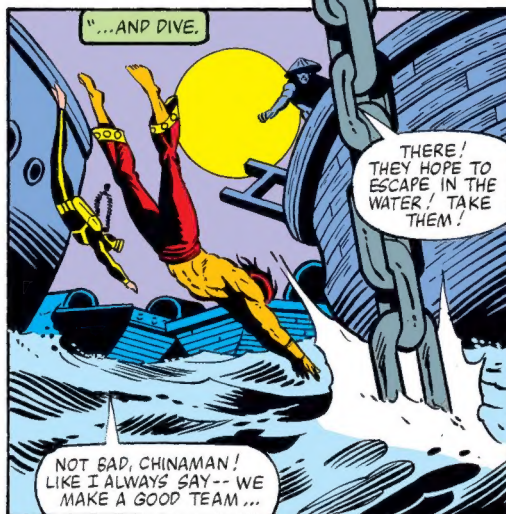
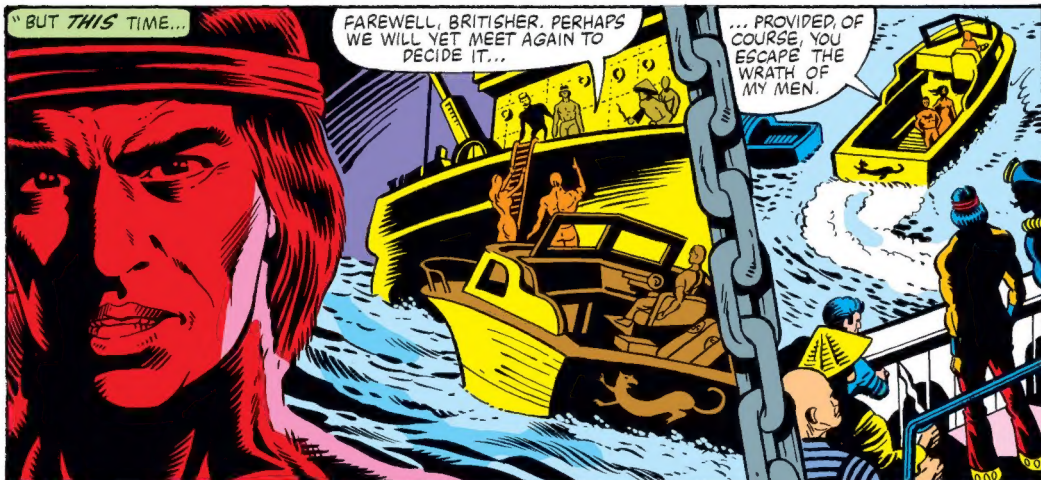
"STILL THE OTHERS WATCH AND LISTEN AS WE EACH WORK AT THE OTHER'S WEAKNESS, NEITHER OF US FINDING ANY, AND SO BOTH SLIPPING INTO A STASIS OF STRIKE AND COUNTERSTRIKE...

"...UNTIL, FINALLY, MY MIND PERMITS ITSELF TO DWELL ON BLACK JACK TARR...







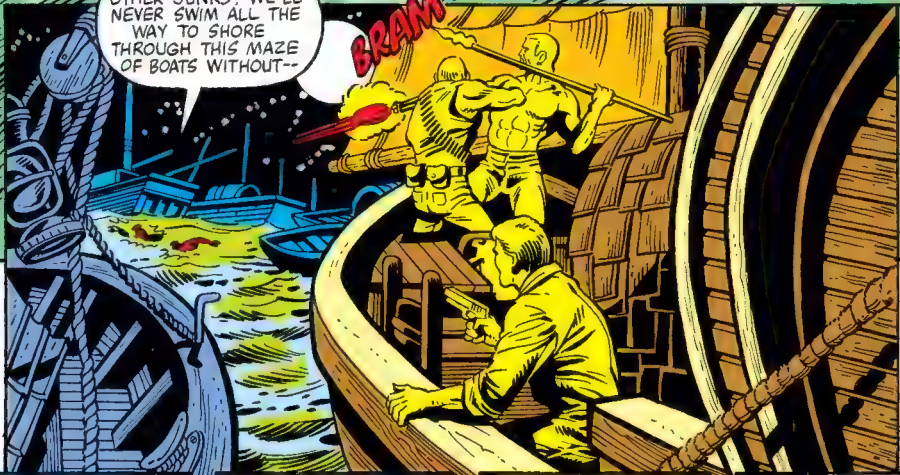




BUT WE AIN'T OUTTA THE SOUP YET!

THEY'RE SOUNDIN' THE ALARM--

--ALERTIN' THE OTHER JUNKS! WE'LL NEVER SWIM ALL THE WAY TO SHORE THROUGH THIS MAZE OF BOATS WITHOUT--



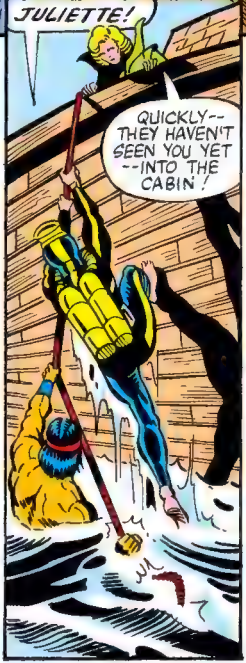
BRAM!



HERE-- CLIMB UP!

A ROPE!

EITHER MANNA FROM HEAVEN OR A HELLISH TRAP...



JULIETTE!

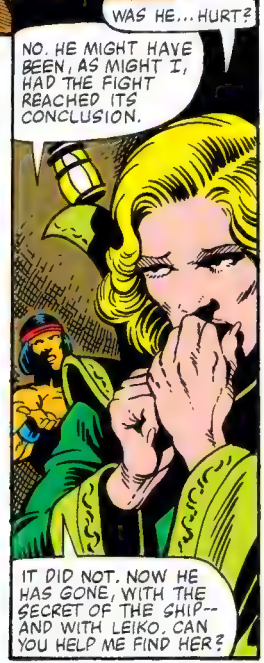
QUICKLY-- THEY HAVEN'T SEEN YOU YET --INTO THE CABIN!



INSIDE, TARR REGAINS HIS CALM...

YOU SAW SHEN KUE! THEN?

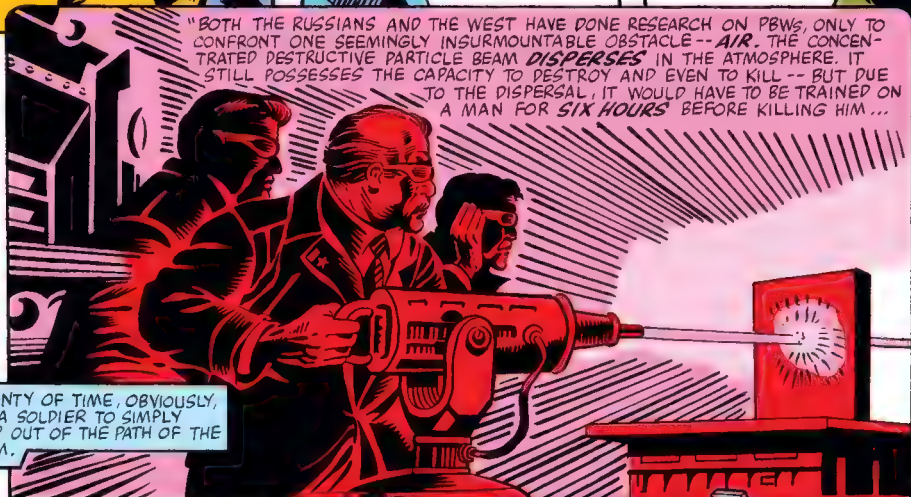
AND FOUGHT, JULIETTE...UNTIL TARR INTERRUPTED IT.



WAS HE...HURT?

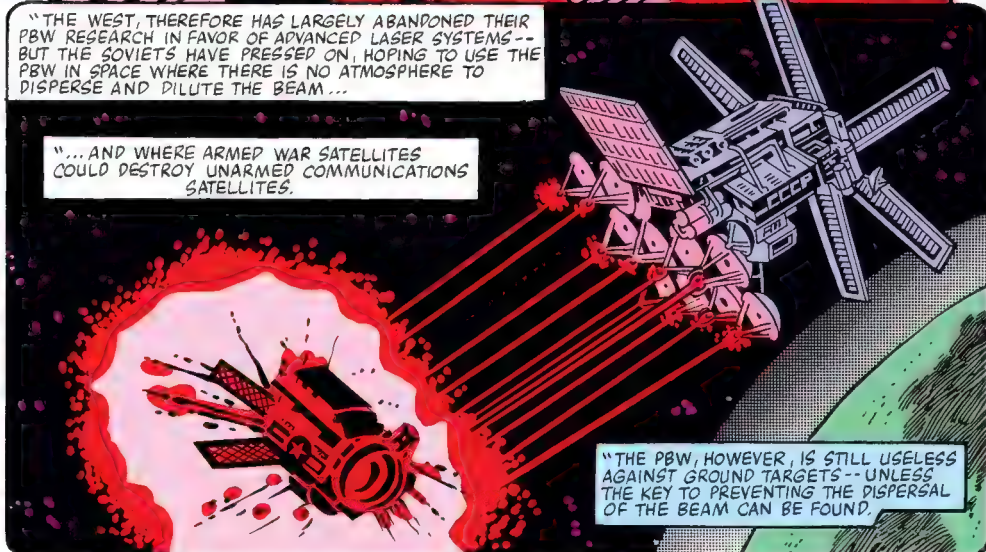
NO. HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN, AS MIGHT I, HAD THE FIGHT REACHED ITS CONCLUSION.

IT DID NOT. NOW HE HAS GONE, WITH THE SECRET OF THE SHIP-- AND WITH LEIKO. CAN YOU HELP ME FIND HER?



"THE WEST, THEREFORE HAS LARGELY ABANDONED THEIR PBW RESEARCH IN FAVOR OF ADVANCED LASER SYSTEMS-- BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE PRESSED ON, HOPING TO USE THE PBW IN SPACE WHERE THERE IS NO ATMOSPHERE TO DISPERSE AND DILUTE THE BEAM ...

"... AND WHERE ARMED WAR SATELLITES COULD DESTROY UNARMED COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES.



"IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE NAZIS WERE CONVINCED THEY HAD **FOUND** THAT KEY... DURING WORLD WAR II.

"--THEY DECIDED TO SEND THEIR RESEARCH PAPERS AND THE NEW **ZORIUM** COMPOUND TO JAPANESE-OCCUPIED HONG KONG FOR SAFEKEEPING.

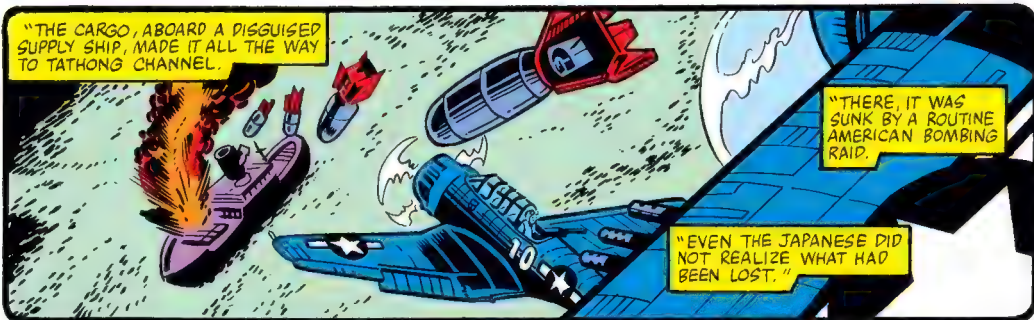
"IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY A NEW METAL COMPOUND THEY CALLED **ZORIUM**, AND WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES PRESSED BY THE ALLIES ON ONE SIDE AND THE RUSSIANS ON THE OTHER --



"THE CARGO, ABOARD A DISGUISED SUPPLY SHIP, MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO TATHONG CHANNEL.

"THERE, IT WAS SUNK BY A ROUTINE AMERICAN BOMBING RAID.

"EVEN THE JAPANESE DID NOT REALIZE WHAT HAD BEEN LOST."



AND NOW SHEN KUEI HAS FOUND IT. FOR WHOM? THE COMMUNIST CHINESE?

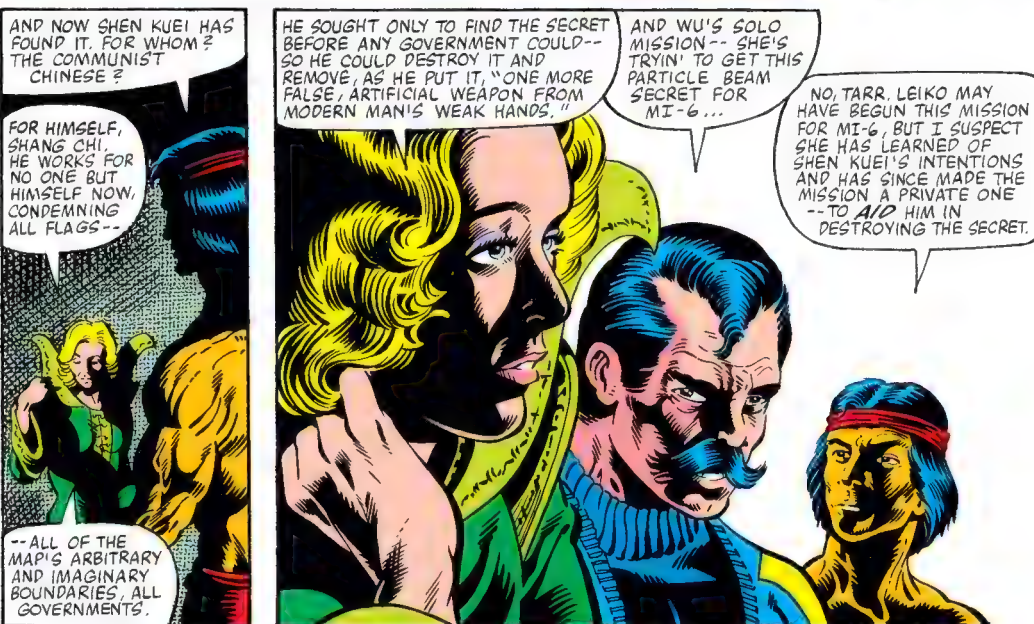
FOR HIMSELF, SHANG CHI. HE WORKS FOR NO ONE BUT HIMSELF NOW, CONDEMNING ALL FLAGS--

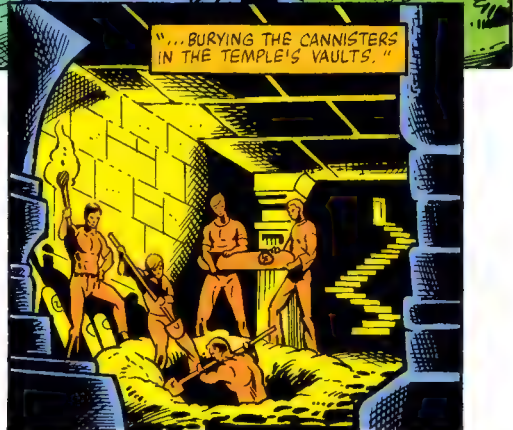
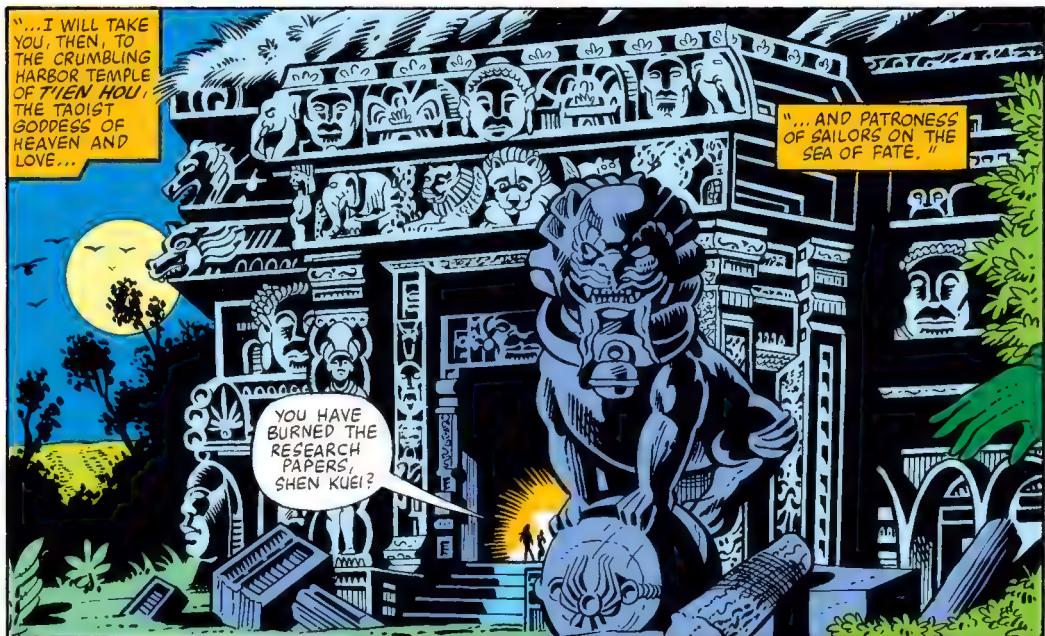
--ALL OF THE MAP'S ARBITRARY AND IMAGINARY BOUNDARIES, ALL GOVERNMENTS'.

HE SOUGHT ONLY TO FIND THE SECRET BEFORE ANY GOVERNMENT COULD-- SO HE COULD DESTROY IT AND REMOVE, AS HE PUT IT, "ONE MORE FALSE, ARTIFICIAL WEAPON FROM MODERN MAN'S WEAK HANDS."

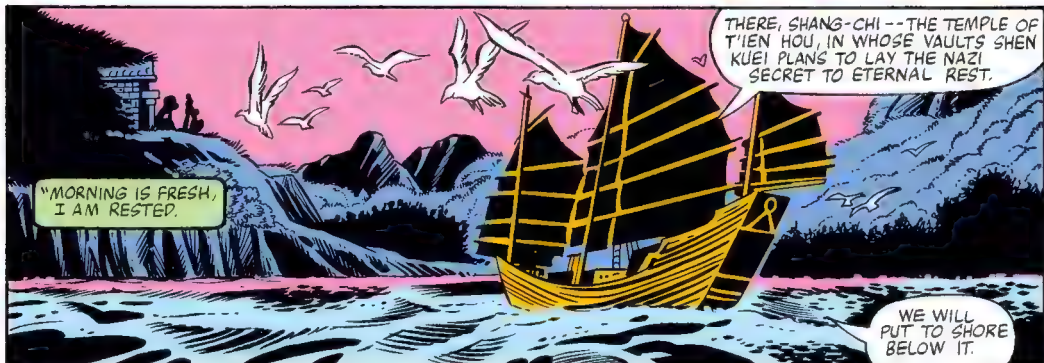
AND WU'S SOLO MISSION-- SHE'S TRYIN' TO GET THIS PARTICLE BEAM SECRET FOR MI-6...

NO, TARR. LEIKO MAY HAVE BEGUN THIS MISSION FOR MI-6, BUT I SUSPECT SHE HAS LEARNED OF SHEN KUEI'S INTENTIONS AND HAS SINCE MADE THE MISSION A PRIVATE ONE -- TO **AID** HIM IN DESTROYING THE SECRET.







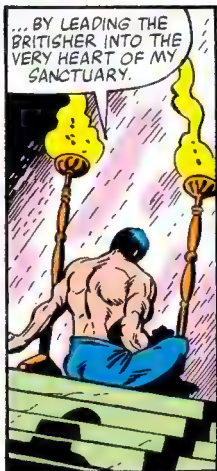




THERE, SHANG-CHI...
ON THE ALTAR...

JULIETTE.

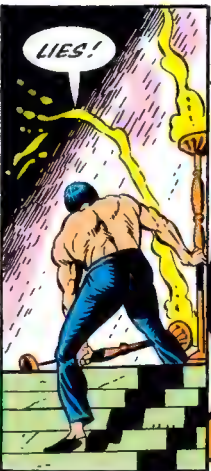
THEN YOU HAVE HAUNTED
MY DREAMS... ONLY TO BETRAY
ME YET AGAIN UPON MY
AWAKENING...



... BY LEADING THE
BRITISHER INTO THE
VERY HEART OF MY
SANCTUARY.



BELIEVE WHAT YOU
WILL, SHEN KUEI, BUT
SHANG-CHI HAS NO
REASON TO OPPOSE
YOU.



LIES!



IT IS TRUTH. I HAVE
COME ONLY FOR
LEIKO.



TRICKERY! BUT I
WARN YOU NOW,
BRITISHER...



NO--!



...YOU WILL HAVE TO KILL ME
BEFORE YOU CAN DELIVER YET
ANOTHER FALSE WEAPON IN-
TO THE BLOODSTAINED
HANDS OF MI-6!

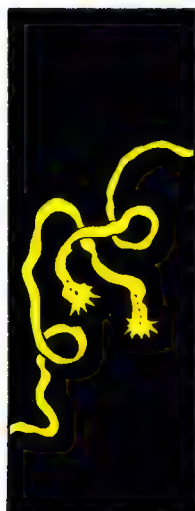
"I WAS CARE-
LESS! WE FALL..."



"AND..."

"HE IS..."

"...GONE."



"I AM AWARE OF THE HARD STRENGTH BENEATH HIS SKIN."

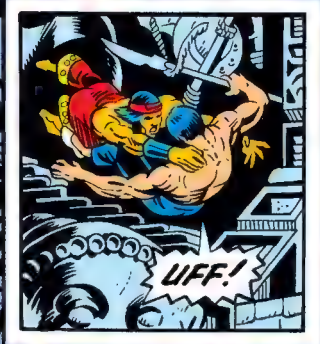
"THE TASK AT HAND IS SIMPLE:
I MUST FIRST EQUAL HIS
STRENGTH..."



"... THEN
SURPASS
IT."



"QUICKLY! I MUST REACH
HIM BEFORE HE REACHES--"



"-- A WEAPON!"



IT IS ALL BURIED,
LEIKO. OUR WORK
IS FINISHED.



GOOD. I
WILL GO
UP AND
INFORM
SHEN KUEI.

"TOO LATE!"

SHANG--?! NO!
AND ALL BECAUSE I
WANTED TO FINISH
THIS MISSION ON
MY OWN!



"HE ALREADY
HAS A WEAPON--
AND NOW I MUST
SEIZE ONE OF MY
OWN!"

"YES! WE ARE AGAIN EQUAL-- BUT NOW I MUST FIND **NEW** STRENGTH TO SURPASS HIS..."

STOP! DON'T BE FOOLS! THE CARGO IS GONE-- THE SECRET DESTROYED!

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO FIGHT FOR!

"AND YET WE CONTINUE, HELPLESS SLAVES TO THE MASTERY AND MOMENTUM AND ARTFUL VIOLENCE..."

"... PREY TO THE FASCINATION OF OUR OWN RUNAWAY SKILLS."

"BRIEFLY, I SEE LEIKO JOIN JULIETTE IN URGENT WHISPERS..."

"... BEFORE I AM FORCED TO SPIN AWAY."

"BUT THE STRUGGLE SHIFTS, AND AGAIN MY EYES GLIMPSE THE WOMEN THROUGH RED HAZE. JULIETTE PASSES SOMETHING TO LEIKO."

"LEIKO NODS FIRMLY."

"AND AGAIN I AM FORCED TO RETURN TO THE TASK AT HAND"

"NOW."

SHRIIP

"YES, NOW! HE IS OFF-BALANCE--!"

"IT IS TIME TO--"

STOP! --AND LOOK AT US FOR THE LAST TIME!

I ONCE STOPPED YOU BY THREATENING TO KILL MYSELF, AND I TRIED TO DO SO, BUT MY HAND WAVED ON THE BLADE UNTIL I COULD DO NO MORE THAN PLUNGE IT INTO MY SHOULDER. BUT THIS TIME I HAVE **HELP**-- AND NO CONTROL OVER THE POINT OF THE WOUND!

AND WE **WILL** PULL THE TRIGGERS / LOVE IS THAT IMPORTANT TO US -- MORE IMPORTANT! IT WAS MY PRIDE, IN PART, WHICH CAUSED THIS -- SO PERHAPS I'M **DUE** FOR A FALL! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM YOUR INFLUENCE, SHANG -- TO REASSERT MYSELF...



BUT I DON'T WANT TO **LOSE** YOU--!



PLEASE -- DON'T KILL EACH OTHER -- AND DON'T FORCE US TO DO THE SAME!



WE'RE SERIOUS, SHEN KUEI. IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU ALIVE, THEN I DON'T WANT TO LIVE MYSELF.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STOP THE FIGHT... FORGET YOUR PAST... AND **COME** TO ME...



IT IS TRUE, SHEN KUEI. LIKE THE WARS BETWEEN NATIONS YOU SO DESPISE, OUR FIGHT IS ALSO WITHOUT REAL PURPOSE, REAL ENMITY...

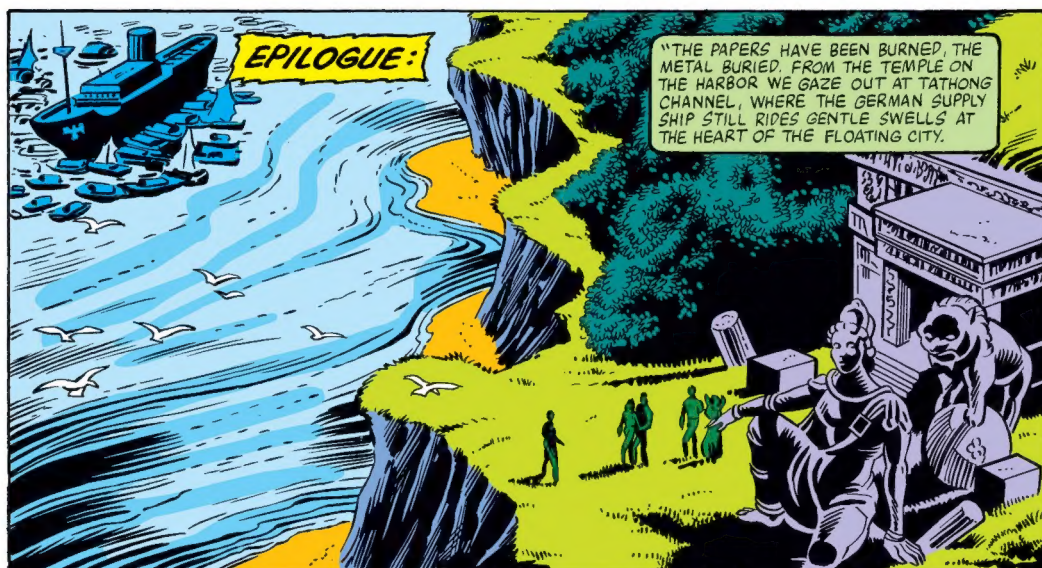
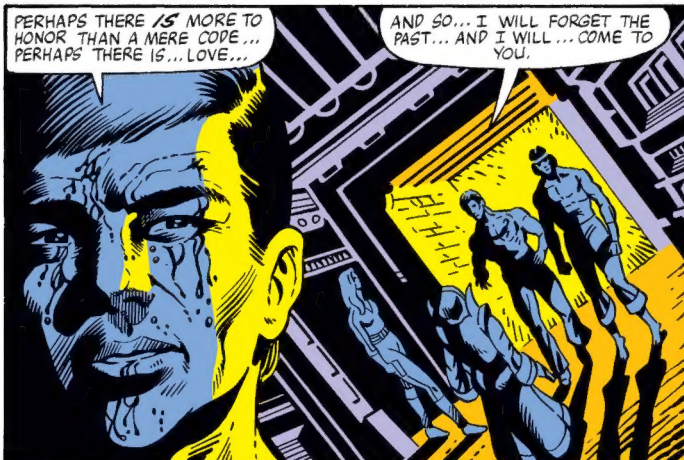
REAL REASON.



I FORSAKE MY WEAPON. CAN YOU DO LESS?



VERY WELL, JULIETTE...



"AT CLIFF'S EDGE, SHEN KUEI RAISES ONE ARM.

